

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 3/21/61

FROM : SAC, LOS ANGELES (94-771)

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

Pasadena 10, California  
RESEARCH (CORRESPONDENCE  
AND TOURS)

b6  
b7C

*Robert A. Welsh*

Re Bureau airtel 3/16/61 captioned as above.

[REDACTED] was contacted at his residence on 3/21/61 by SA JAMES A. NORTON.

Mr. [REDACTED] was advised as instructed in referenced Bureau airtel. No discussion was had concerning ROBERT WELCH or the John Birch Society.

[REDACTED] expressed his deep appreciation for such a prompt reply to his letter and was extremely appreciative that an Agent called on him.

*no further action  
see: RWA  
3-27-61*

33

RUC.

2 - Bureau  
1 - Los Angeles

JAN:tzg  
(3)

REC-93

62-104401-853

MAR 23 1961

CORRESPONDENCE

b6  
b7C

51 MAR 31 1961

\*220,504  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 1-2-86 BY [REDACTED]

16  
3-15-61

airtel

To: SAC, Los Angeles

From: Director, FBI



b6  
b7C

PASADENA 10, CALIFORNIA  
RESEARCH (CORRESPONDENCE AND TOURS)

Enclosed are two copies of an incoming dated 3-5-61 from captioned individual. Bufiles contain no references to him.

You are instructed to have one of your Agents contact Mr. [redacted] and advise him that while we do not ordinarily comment on the integrity of any individual, publication or organization, our files contain no information which would impugn the reputation, character, integrity or loyalty to the United States of former President Dwight D. Eisenhower or his brother, Milton. Under no circumstances should any comment be made concerning either Robert Welch, his book entitled "The Politician" or the John Birch Society.

Submit results of this interview, under above caption, to reach Bureau no later than 3-24-61.

Enclosures (2)

Follow-up made for 3-24-61

Killed.  
See me from A  
3-21-61 RUA

MAILED 27  
MAR 16 1961  
COMM-FBI

- Tolson
- Parsons
- Mohr
- Belmont
- Callahan
- Conrad
- DeLoach
- Evans
- Malone
- Rosen
- Tavel
- Trotter
- W.C. Sullivan
- Tele. Room
- Ingram
- Gandy

RVA:jab  
(6)

51 MAR 31 1961

MAIL ROOM ☐

TELETYPE UNIT ☐

ARWA 4731

4.2.86



b6  
b7C

REH

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 3-16-61

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY (JBS)  
 ATTEMPT TO DISTRIBUTE BUREAU LITERATURE  
 WITHOUT APPROVAL

Tolson  
 Parsons  
 Mohr  
 Belmont  
 Casper  
 Callahan  
 Conrad  
 DeLoach  
 Evans  
 Malone  
 Rosen  
 Sullivan  
 Tavel  
 Trotter  
 W.C. Sullivan  
 Tele. Room  
 Ingram  
 Gandy

Reference is made to your memorandum to Mr. Mohr of 3-14-61 (attached), which advised that a printer in Santa Barbara, California, had advised our Los Angeles Office that he had received an order from JBS to print 10,000 copies of the poster, "What You Can Do To Fight Communism." JBS also requested the printer to print an addition on the poster to the effect that it was being distributed by the JBS.

ASAC William Alexander of Los Angeles was advised on 3-14-61 that we should have nothing to do with JBS since obviously they were attempting to capitalize on the Director's prestige. He was told that the printer should be informed that the FBI had not given approval for JBS to reproduce the poster nor could we approve of the addition to the poster reflecting its distribution by JBS.

It was recommended and approved by the Director that an SAC Letter be prepared instructing the Field that (1) No Bureau publications are to be made available to JBS, (2) Alert the Field to the possibility that JBS may attempt to reproduce and distribute Bureau publications, and (3) That any requests by JBS for permission to reproduce Bureau publications should be turned down.

RECOMMENDATION:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 2-2-84 BY [redacted]

That the attached SAC Letter regarding the John Birch Society be approved.

Enclosures (2)

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach - Enclosure  
 1 - Mr. Belmont - Enclosure  
 1 - Mr. Malone - Enclosure

BS:dgs  
 (7)

50 MAR 31 1961

101 XE

MAR 27 1961

CRIME RESEARCH

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 3/24/61

*Hg* FROM : SAC, BUTTE (62-1672)

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY  
INFO. CONCERNING (INTERNAL  
SECURITY)

*Re* Re SAC Letter 60-5(C) captioned "ROBERT H. WELCH, Jr., - INFORMATION CONCERNING (INTERNAL SECURITY)," and Butte letter to Bureau, 9/9/60, with same caption as this letter.

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*not* The "Montana Standard," a Butte, Montana, daily newspaper, issue of 1/31/61, reported that [redacted] of the JOHN BIRCH Society, would speak in Butte that day. Subsequent information was received indicating efforts of various responsible persons in Butte to form a JOHN BIRCH Society.

Films have been shown and lectures given in Dillon, Montana, concerning the Society and efforts made to organize a Chapter in that small community.

Through correspondence with the Bureau by an interested individual it was ascertained that a Chapter has been formed in Sidney, Montana.

~~ANOTHER~~ During 3/61, information was received that ~~Chapter~~ Chapter has been formed in Stevensville, Montana.

Recent contacts with this Office by interested citizens inquiring about the Society indicate a growing ~~disillusionment~~ by people with the material published by the Society. Further, the recent article in "Time Magazine," concerning the Society, as well as a series of articles being published by the "People's Voice," a weekly newspaper published in Helena, Montana, concerning the Society, have done much to bring about this feeling on the part of local citizens.

- cc destroyed*  
② - Bureau (Reg.) *OK*  
1 - Butte  
THZ/ar

REC-115

7 MAR 27 1961

(3)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2-28-01 BY [redacted]

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b7C

APR 6 1961

BT #62-1672

There has been no indication from Confidential Informants or other sources of efforts by subversive elements to take over or to use this Society or its Chapters.

This is for the Bureau's information.

Date 3/28/61

To

☒ Director (AM) BT FILE # 62-1672

Att. ....

☐ SAC ..... Title JOHN BIRCH

☐ ASAC .....

☐ Supv. .... SOCIETY

☐ Agent ..... INFO. CONCERNING

☐ SE .....

☐ CC ..... (INTERNAL SECURITY)

☐ Steno .....

☐ Clerk .....

ACTION DESIRED

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledge   | <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare lead cards     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assign ..... Reassign .....                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare tickler        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bring file  | <input type="checkbox"/> Recharge serials       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Call me   | <input type="checkbox"/> Return assignment card |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Correct                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Return file            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deadline .....  | <input type="checkbox"/> Return serials         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deadline passed   | <input type="checkbox"/> Search and return      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delinquent  | <input type="checkbox"/> See me                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Discontinue   | <input type="checkbox"/> Send Serials .....     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Expedite  | to .....  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> File  | <input type="checkbox"/> Submit new charge-out  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Initial & return  | <input type="checkbox"/> Submit report by ..... |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leads need attention                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Type                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Open Case   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Return with explanation or notation as to action taken. |   |

Re Butte letter to Bureau, 3/24/61.

Please make following corrections: Para 5, line 2, change "sister" to "another", and delete "a" in line 1 of this paragraph; para. 6, line 1 word 1 should be spelled "disillusionment".

SAC MAYNOR

Office BUTTE

☐ See reverse side  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4-2-96 BY 60321

b6  
b7c

REC-85

3-24-61

62-104401-858

airtel

To: SAC, El Paso

b6  
b7C

From: Director, FBI

MISS

FT. STOCKTON, TEXAS

RESEARCH (CORRESPONDENCE AND TOURS)

Enclosed is a copy of a telegram from the above-captioned individual dated March 23, 1961. As it is not possible to determine her address from Ft. Stockton telephone directory, you are instructed to obtain her address from Western Union Office at Ft. Stockton and personally acknowledge her communication to me. Of course, she should be advised that the FBI does not furnish evaluations or comments concerning any individual, organization or publication. Consequently, it will not be possible for me to accede to her request. Suairtel results to reach Bureau, Attention: Research (Correspondence and Tours), by 4-4-61.

Enclosure

MAILED 19

MAR 24 1961

COMM-FBI

b6  
b7C

Follow-up for 4-4-61

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Evans \_\_\_\_\_  
Malone \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Ingram \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: Bufiles contain no record of correspondent. The John Birch Society was founded in 12-58 in Indianapolis, Indiana, by Robert H. Welch Jr., of Belmont, Massachusetts. It is incorporated under laws of State of Massachusetts; is allegedly anti-communist; has chapters throughout country and has not been investigated by the Bureau. Welch and the S in the past have been extremely critical of former President Eisenhower.

(62-104401)

JMM:per (6)

62 MAR 31 1961

TELETYPE UNIT ☐

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

2:12PM March 9, 1961

Senator MILTON R. YOUNG  
(R. - North Dakota) telephoned through  
secretary for the Director. He was  
advised of the Director's absence  
and was referred to Mr. Leinbaugh  
in Mr. DeLoach's absence.

Senator Young said he and Senator  
Mansfield made critical statements  
yesterday regarding the John Birch  
Society. Defenders of the Society claim that the  
Director has endorsed the Society and Mr. Leinbaugh  
emphatically denied this. Senator Young also said  
that the Society claims that the Director has stated  
that 70% to 80% of the officials of the Department of  
Health, Education and Welfare were communists or  
had been influenced by the communists. Mr.  
Leinbaugh told the Senator that this had been previously  
brought to the Director's attention and that it is  
totally untrue in that the Director has not made such a  
ridiculous assertion.

Senator Young said he would appreciate a letter  
pointing out this information.

Mr. Leinbaugh is preparing a memorandum.

ceh

11 MAR 27 1961

CRIME RESEARCH

51 MAR 31 1961

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Parsons  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Callahan  
Mr. Conrad  
Mr. DeLoach  
Mr. Evans  
Mr. Malone  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tavel  
Mr. Trotter  
Mr. Jones  
Mr. W.C. Sullivan  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Ingram  
Miss Holmes  
Miss Gandy

b6  
b7c



## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 3/27/61

FROM: *[Signature]*

SAC, CHARLOTTE

b6  
b7CSUBJECT: *PA* [Redacted]

THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY (JBS)

b6  
b7C

Re SAC Let 61-14 (D) dated 3/21/61 regarding JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY (JBS).

[Redacted] who appears on several stations in the southeast, presenting a program entitled, [Redacted]. He is on the Bureau mailing list to receive publications, his home address being [Redacted] Greenwood, S. C.

[Redacted] is personally known to SA [Redacted] at Greenwood, S. C. On 3/24/61, he volunteered the fact he is the [Redacted] of The John Birch Society. He did not indicate he had actually formed a chapter at Greenwood, S. C.

He has been actively fighting communism for the past several years. He has always praised the Bureau and is known to be a great admirer of the Director.

The above is furnished in view of referenced SAC Letter which states no Bureau publications of any kind are to be made available to JBS or to any of its representatives.

② - Bureau *RAN*  
2 - Charlotte (100-9548) (100-7106)  
ERG:pae  
(4)

b6  
b7C

REC-101

62-100-9548-869

MAR 28 1961

62 APR 18 1961

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## Memorandum

TO : Mr. Mohr

DATE: March 9, 1961

FROM : C.D. DeLoach

SUBJECT: SENATOR MILTON B. YOUNG (R-NDAK.)  
INQUIRY RE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

Tolson	
DeLoach	
Mohr	
Bishop	
Casper	
Callahan	
Conrad	
DeLoach	
Evans	
Malone	
Rosen	
Tavel	
Trotter	
W.C. Sullivan	
Tele. Room	
Ingram	
Gandy	

Senator Young called early this afternoon and in my absence spoke with Leinbaugh in my office. The Senator said that he and Mike Mansfield (D-Montana) had blasted the John Birch Society on the Senate Floor yesterday (UPI ticker attached), and the Senator said that frankly he had been amazed at the reaction. He said right after the speech he began to receive criticism from members of the Society and he had had several communications which alleged that Director Hoover had endorsed the John Birch group.

Leinbaugh told the Senator that this was a patent falsehood, that Director Hoover, of course, never endorsed any groups and most certainly would not issue any statement defending the activities of the John Birch Society. The Senator said he was relieved to hear this. He then added that members of this organization had informed him of the assertion that up to 80% of the top people in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare are communists or communist supporters and that Mr. Hoover was the source of information for this assertion. The Senator was told that this ridiculous claim had already been brought to the Director's attention and it has been promptly nailed as a complete fabrication and falsehood.

Senator Young added that if at all possible he would deeply appreciate receiving a short note from Mr. Hoover regarding the above-mentioned matters and he was told we would be happy to comply with his request.

RECOMMENDATION:

That attached letter be forwarded to Senator Young

## Enclosures

- 1 - Mr. Parsons
- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Jones
- 1 - Mr. Morrell

HPL:geg  
(6)

\* The October, 1959, edition of the "American Opinion" publication of the John Birch Society carried an article by R. P. Oliver which article contends that between 70% and 80% of the responsible officers in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare are members or accomplices of the communist conspiracy. (Memorandum attached)

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 62-92941-62

Done 3/10/61

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b7c

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 12-20-00

58 APR 11 1961

UPI-133

(BIRCH SOCIETY)

WASHINGTON--SEN. MILTON R. YOUNG, R-N.D., AND SENATE DEMOCRATIC LEADER MIKE MANSFIELD, MONT., TODAY SOUGHT TO PALLY PUBLIC OPINION AGAINST THE ULTRA-CONSERVATIVE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY, WHOSE TOP OFFICIAL ACCUSED FORMER PRESIDENT EISENHOWER OF BEING A COMMUNIST AGENT.

IN SEPARATE SENATE SPEECHES, YOUNG AND MANSFIELD DEPLORED THE ORGANIZATION'S GROWING MEMBERSHIP IN THE DAKOTAS AND MONTANA, ALTHOUGH YOUNG QUOTED A (TIME) MAGAZINE ARTICLE AS REPORTING IT HAS ACTIVE "CELLS" IN MORE THAN 35 STATES. ONE NORTH DAKOTA CITY ALONE HAS FOUR CELLS, YOUNG SAID.

HE SAID THE SOCIETY'S MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES "SOME OF THE MOST ABLE AND INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE IN EACH COMMUNITY." ITS CRITICISM, HE SAID, IS LEVELED "NOT AGAINST LIBERAL PUBLIC OFFICIALS, BUT AGAINST THE MIDDLE-OF-THE-ROAD, AND EVEN CONSERVATIVE REPUBLICANS."

SOCIETY PRESIDENT ROBERT WELCH "HAS MADE ACCUSATIONS AGAINST THE PRESIDENT AND OTHER TOP OFFICIALS FAR BEYOND ANYTHING THE LATE SEN. JOE MCCARTHY EVER THOUGHT OF," YOUNG SAID.

HE SUBMITTED AN ARTICLE FROM A CHICAGO NEWSPAPER (NEWS) IN WHICH WELCH'S BOOK, "THE POLITICIAN," WAS SAID TO HAVE TRIED TO PROVE THAT EISENHOWER "IS A CONSCIOUS, DEDICATED AGENT OF THE COMMUNISTS," AND HIS ADMINISTRATION "CONTROLLED BY THE COMMUNIST PARTY."

MANSFIELD JOINED IN CRITICIZING THE ATTACK ON EISENHOWER, AND IN URGING THE PUBLIC TO "JUDGE THIS ORGANIZATION FOR WHAT IT IS."

YOUNG SAID THE SOCIETY HAS ACCUSED HIM "OF BEING ABOUT EVERY KIND OF SCOUNDREL, INCLUDING A COMMUNIST OR PRO-COMMUNIST."

3/8--GE302P

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4-22-86

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b7c

62-104401-877  
ENCLOSURE

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Siti

(D) THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY, (JBS) -- SAC Letter 59-13 (F), dated March 10, 1959, set out background data concerning Robert H. Welch, Jr., a candy manufacturer of Belmont, Massachusetts, and his anticommunist campaign. SAC Letter 60-5 (C), dated January 26, 1960, advised that in December, 1958, Welch created an organization called "The John Birch Society," the long-range objective of which has been summarized as "less government, more responsibility, and a better world."

Recently, a printer in Santa Barbara, California, advised he had received an order from JBS to print 10,000 copies of my poster, "What You Can Do To Fight Communism." The JBS also requested the printer to print an addition to the poster to the effect that this statement was being distributed under the auspices of the JBS. We have advised the printer that the FBI has not given approval for JBS to reproduce the poster nor could the FBI approve of the addition to the poster reflecting its distribution by JBS.

In view of this irresponsible organization's attempt to capitalize on the FBI's prestige, no Bureau publications of any kind are to be made available to JBS or to any of its representatives. You should be alert to the possibility that this group may attempt to reproduce Bureau publications and distribute them giving the impression that the FBI sanctions JBS. Immediately advise the Bureau of any such information coming to your attention. Further, any requests by JBS to reproduce Bureau publications should be turned down.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover

Director

b6  
b7C

#220,504  
ALL



Alain

6/24/83

Sp800/12ce

62-1041401-  
NOT RECORDED  
100 MAR 30 1961

3/21/61  
SAC LETTER NO. 61-14

- 4 -

56 APR 3 1961

ORIGINAL COPY KEPT IN  
66-04-1011

17c jma  
smc  
ack  
3-23-61  
RWE:jma

b6  
b7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 11-13-83 BY 1043

3-24-61

CODE

*Plain*

*Teletype*  
RADIOGRAM

DEFERRED

PA-  
REC-114  
EX-114

62-104401-894

TO SAC INDIANAPOLIS

FROM DIRECTOR FBI

b6  
b7C

[REDACTED] INFORMATION CONCERNING, RESEARCH

(CORRESPONDENCE AND TOURS SECTION) BY LETTER RECEIVED MARCH  
TWENTY-THREE, NINETEEN SIXTY-ONE [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA, ADVISED

HE IS MEMBER OF THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY (JBS) AND INDICATED HE  
INTENDS TO VISIT INDIANAPOLIS OFFICE ON MARCH TWENTY-SEVEN,  
NINETEEN SIXTY-ONE TO DISCUSS THIS ORGANIZATION. [REDACTED] PREVI-  
OUSLY WROTE TO ME ON MARCH FIFTEEN, NINETEEN SIXTY-ONE,  
REQUESTING INFORMATION REGARDING JBS AND I REPLIED ON MARCH  
TWENTY-THREE, NINETEEN SIXTY-ONE, THAT FBI DOES NOT MAKE  
EVALUATIONS REGARDING ORGANIZATIONS. YOU SHOULD FURNISH NO  
COMMENTS REGARDING JBS TO [REDACTED] IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRU-  
CTIONS IN SAC LETTER SIXTY-ONE - FOURTEEN (D).

b6  
b7C

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Evans \_\_\_\_\_  
Malone \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Ingram \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

AFH:JO

(4)

NOTE: See Jones to DeLoach, dated 3-24-61 captioned  
Indianapolis, Indiana "AFH:jo"

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

APR 5 1961

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAR 24 1961

TELETYPE

DEFERRED 3-24-61 9-44 PM JSA

TO SAC INDIANAPOLIS

FROM DIRECTOR 1 P

[REDACTED] INFORMATION CONCERNING, RESEARCH  
/CORRESPONDENCE AND TOURS SECTION/ BY LETTER RECEIVED MARCH  
TWENTY-THREE, NINETEEN SIXTY-ONE, [REDACTED]

b6  
b7C

[REDACTED] INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA, ADVISED  
HE IS MEMBER OF THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY /JBS/ AND INDICATED HE  
INTENDS TO VISIT INDIANAPOLIS OFFICE ON MARCH TWENTY-SEVEN,  
NINETEEN SIXTY-ONE TO DISCUSS THIS ORGANIZATION. [REDACTED] PREVI-  
OUSLY WROTE TO ME ON MARCH FIFTEEN, NINETEEN SIXTY-ONE,  
REQUESTING INFORMATION REGARDING JBS AND I REPLIED ON MARCH  
TWENTY-THREE, NINETEEN SIXTY-ONE, THAT FBI DOES NOT MAKE  
EVALUATIONS REGARDING ORGANIZATIONS. YOU SHOULD FURNISH NO  
COMMENTS REGARDING JBS TO [REDACTED] IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRU-  
CTIONS IN SAC LETTER SIXTY-ONE-FOURTEEN /S/// /D/.

END PLS ACK

OK FBI IP HGB

TU DISCM

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b7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 11-18-86 BY [REDACTED]

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## Memorandum

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
 Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
 DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
 Evans \_\_\_\_\_  
 Malone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ingram \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: March 24, 1961

FROM : M. A. Jones *[Signature]*SUBJECT: 

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

b6  
b7C

On 3-23-61 a letter signed by captioned individual enclosing a business card of the  and a newspaper clipping regarding the John Birch Society was received by the Director.  indicated in his letter he had joined a "Birch Chapter" on 3-5-61 and asks whether he would be helping the fight against communism by working with the organization. He stated he plans to visit the Indianapolis Office of the FBI on 3-27-61 to discuss the John Birch Society.

Bufiles show  wrote the Director on 3-15-61 enclosing material regarding the John Birch Society and inquiring about it. By letter of 3-23-61 the Director advised  that the FBI does not make evaluations or draw conclusions as to the character or integrity of any organization, publication or individual.

OBSERVATION:

Since the reply to  initial communication makes it clear that no information can be furnished by the FBI regarding the John Birch Society, there is no apparent reason to acknowledge his second letter.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

(1) Attached radiogram advising Indianapolis Division of  intention to inquire about the John Birch Society on 3-27-61 be approved.

(2) No acknowledgment be made to  letter received 3-23-61.

b6  
b7C

REC-4

10 MAR 30 1961

AFH:jo  
(3)

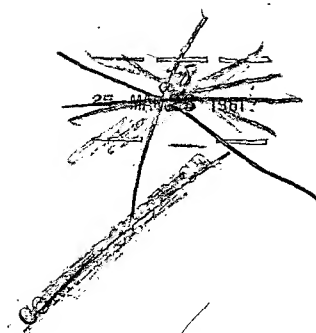
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 9-28-80 BY

*[Handwritten signature]*  
 62-104401-894



OFFICE OF DIRECTOR  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Parsons JS  
Mr. Mohr JS  
Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Conrad JS  
Mr. DeLoach JS  
Mr. Evans \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Malone \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Jones \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ingram \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (62-104401)

DATE: 3/31/61

FROM : SAC, BOSTON (100-32899)

SUBJECT: THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY  
INFORMATION CONCERNING  
(INTERNAL SECURITY)

Re: Boston letter to the Director dated 2/17/61.

On March 21, 1961, HERBERT A. PHILBRICK advised that he had no current information concerning the number of JOHN BIRCH CHAPTERS now functioning.

PHILBRICK stated that on his last personal contact with ROBERT WELCH, about two years ago, he was told that there were 20 chapters in Houston, Texas, and one chapter in Bismark, North Dakota. He has no additional information at the present time concerning the number of chapters of the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY. He stated that if he obtained additional information concerning this, he would furnish same to the Bureau.

Because of PHILBRICK's lack of particulars, the above information is being submitted by letter to the Bureau rather than by letterhead memorandum.

b6

b7C

This case is now being closed in the Boston Division.

2 - Bureau (62-104401) (RM)  
1 - Boston (100-32899)  
DBC:etg  
(3)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4-1-84 BY [redacted]

EX-114

REC-91 62-104401-899

APR 8 1961

66 APR 7 1961

F B I

Date: 3/29/61

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_

(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTELAIR MAIL - REGISTERED

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

b6

b7C

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (100-59001)

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY  
INFORMATION CONCERNING  
(INTERNAL SECURITY) **REC-80**

4-1-86  
15-8-96  
17

SP4-BSD/om  
# 357,439

Re letter from the Director, FBI to the Office of Security, Department of State, captioned "JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY, INFORMATION CONCERNING (INTERNAL SECURITY)" dated 3/21/61.

b6

b7C

SA RILEY L. MILLARD contacted Miss [redacted] Santa Barbara, California, for an appointment about 10:30 a.m., 3/25/61. She advised that she was very confused and stated that she would call back to advise when it would be convenient to see Agent. At approximately 11:00 a.m. Miss [redacted] called and stated that Agent could call on her at 2:00 p.m., 3/25/61.

At 2:00 p.m. SA MILLARD called on Miss [redacted]. She advised that she was emotionally upset and distraught to the point where she was unable to talk to Agent. For this reason she had asked her friend, a Mr. [redacted] to meet with her and explain what she had in mind. While awaiting Mr. [redacted] the Bureau's jurisdiction and responsibility in the internal security field were explained to Miss [redacted]. She stated that her concern was over events which have been happening in Santa Barbara, California, which have been causing the people to become suspicious of each other. She mentioned the speeches made in Santa Barbara recently by CLEONTSKOUSEN, WILLIAM SUCKLEY and EDGAR SUNDY. She stated that she considers them rabble rousers. At this point Mr. [redacted] arrived, whereupon Miss [redacted] stated that he could explain what she had in mind. [redacted] was advised of the Bureau's responsibilities in the security field.

b6

b7C

3 - Bureau (AM - REGISTERED)  
1 - Los Angeles

EX-117

REC-80

MAR 31 1961

RLM:CEA

T.C. VICK

(4)

Approved: *H. A. Simon*

Sent: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Agent in Charge

55 APR 6

[redacted] Santa Barbara, 7/1/71 is employed as a [redacted] at the U. S. Navy Pacific Missile Range, Point Mugu, California. He stated he is quite concerned over the furor which the John Birch Society is causing in Santa Barbara. He stated the local paper in Santa Barbara had editorialized against the John Birch Society which resulted in a division of thought in the Santa Barbara community. Several months ago he attended a gathering where a tape by ROBERT WELCH described as the founder of the Society, was heard. [redacted] stated WELCH practically accused President EISENHOWER of being a communist and spoke in high tones of the quality of the government in the Dominican Republic. b6 b7C

Later Mr. [redacted] wrote a letter to the "Santa Barbara News-Press" denouncing the John Birch Society. As a result of the publication of this letter, several calls were made to Lt. Commander [redacted] Point Mugu, California, by unidentified persons calling Mr. [redacted] a "dirty communist" and asking questions such as "what are you going to do about it." He stated he considers this an insidious attack in an attempt to get his job because of his open objection to what he considers a completely wrong method of fighting communism. b6 b7C

Mr. [redacted] stated that he has worked for the U. S. Government in the propaganda field and was with OSS during World War II. He directed anti-communist and anti-Fascist propaganda and movies and believes that he has a background of being anti-communist as well as anti-Fascist that should satisfy even the severest critic.

Mr. [redacted] continued, stating that "the John Birch Complex" should be watched as a possible silver shift type organization. He stated that the Director of the FBI should be advised that "while passing under cover of anti-communist, the John Birch complex is using his name and a stable of retired FBI men as covers for their meetings." He mentioned specifically CLEON SKOUSEN, HERBERT PHILBRICK and MATT CVETIC. The John Birch Society is encouraging the reading of anti-communist literature put out by the Director of the FBI as well as his book "Masters of Deceit." They are showing the films "Operation Abolition" and "Communism on the Map," all of which has as its objective the lending of dignity to their organization and of confusing the people as to their true purpose. Mr. [redacted] stated in this connection that he has no objection to the Director's book and that he intends to b6 b7C

LA 100-59001

read it himself some day. The John Birch complex is a rebirth of all the worst aspects of the MC CARTHY era, except that this is worse because it has a brain behind it. He felt that the Director must avoid becoming a tool of the John Birch complex.

Mr. [ ] continued that in Santa Barbara a Mrs. [ ] an employee of U. S. Congressman TEAGUE, b6 with office in the Post Office Building in Santa Barbara, b7C "brainwashed" him for an hour concerning the communist threat to our schools and churches. A Mrs. [ ] is a tool of the John Birch Society by publishing a sheet called "The Freedom Press." A Mrs. [ ] who writes anti-communist articles is spreading the John Birch line. The Santa Barbara Speakers Forum is part of the John Birch Society (JBS) and is bringing to Santa Barbara such speakers as CLEON SKOUSEN, WILLIAM BUCKLEY, EDGAR BUNDY and the like.

Concerning Lt. Commander [ ] Mr. [ ] b6 stated that [ ] was given an award at Point Mugu b7C recently by the U. S. Navy for having made 200 speeches against communism. At least one speech was made under the auspices of the JBS in Ventura, California, and one under the auspices of Mrs. [ ] in Santa Barbara. Mr. [ ] questions the wisdom of permitting the use of a Navy officer in this fashion.

Both Mrs. [ ] and Mrs. [ ] are known to SAS [ ] and THOMAS H. THORNTON as being strongly anti-communist and who have stated that although they are not members of the JBS, they do approve of its anti-communist aims. Mrs. [ ] has published four or five monthly issues of a throwaway which she now calls "The Freedom Press." Mrs. [ ] has a weekly syndicated column which appears in more than a hundred newspapers in which she has been doing a series b6 of articles for teen-agers on the dangers of communism. b7C

Mr. [ ] stated that one of his chief sources of information in this connection is [ ], writer for the "News-Press" who wrote the articles which appeared in the News-Press "exposing" the JBS.

LA 100-59001

Mr. [ ] stated that what he has to say could be summed up by saying that in his opinion "the John Birch complex" is causing lack of faith in democratic principles and is as great a threat to this country as communism.

Miss [ ] stated she thinks that what Mr. [ ] has said sums up her opinions on this subject.

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Neither Miss [ ] nor Mr. [ ] asked any specific question concerning the John Birch Society; therefore, no statements were volunteered.

The indices of the Los Angeles Office contained no information of a derogatory, subversive nature regarding [ ] or [ ]

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont *also*

DATE: 3-29-61

FROM : W. A. Branigan *WAB*SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
 Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
 DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
 Evans \_\_\_\_\_  
 Malone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_

At 10:10 a.m., March 29, 1961, Mr. [redacted] Office of Naval Intelligence, phoned Special Agent Whitson and stated that in connection with an individual who had made application for employment with ONI the applicant had stated he was a member of the John Birch Society, which the applicant said was "on the FBI Preferred List." Mr. [redacted] asked if there was any such thing as an FBI Preferred List, and he was told by Special Agent Whitson that the latter was not aware of the existence of such a list, but that if ONI desired to check the accuracy of the applicant's statement it should be brought to the Bureau's attention through regular channels in connection with any name check request on the applicant.

b6  
 b7C

Agent Whitson did not discuss the John Birch Society with Mr. [redacted] Mr. [redacted] primary function in ONI is censorship planning.

b6  
 b7C

ACTION:

For information.

REC-31

- Baumgardner*  
 1 - Mr. ~~Parsons~~  
 1 - Mr. Belmont  
 1 - Mr. Evans  
 1 - Mr. Branigan  
 1 - Mr. L'Allier  
 1 - Mr. Whitson

62-104401-906  
18 APR 4 1961

b6  
 b7C

EX 104

LW:mhd (7)

51 APR 7 1961

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 11-18-86

The Attorney General

March 10, 1961

Director, FBI

**INQUIRY FROM SENATOR MILTON R. YOUNG  
REGARDING THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY**

For your information, Senator Milton R. Young called my office yesterday to make inquiry regarding the John Birch Society. The Senator advised that he and Senator Mansfield had attacked this group on the floor of the Senate and that he had been amazed by the reaction to his remarks. He said that following the speech, members of this Society had contacted his office claiming that I had endorsed this group.

The Senator was told that this assertion was a complete falsehood inasmuch as it was, of course, outside of my authority to endorse any group or organization. He was further told that I would not under any circumstances issue a statement defending the activities of the John Birch Society.

Members of this group also made claim to Senator Young that up to eighty per cent of the top people in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare are communists or communist supporters and they said that I was the source for this information. The Senator was advised that this ridiculous claim had been previously brought to my attention and that it had been promptly labeled as a complete fabrication.

By letter of March 1, 1961, I advised the Honorable Abraham A. Ribicoff of the above-reported statement which had been erroneously attributed to me.

Previous information was furnished to the Department concerning the John Birch Society by our memorandum dated February 1, 1961.

REC-87

62-104401-910

For your additional information, I am enclosing a copy of my letter to Senator Young dated today.

Enclosure

1 - Mr. Byron R. White - Enclosure  
Deputy Attorney General

- 1 - Mr. Parsons (Sent direct)
- 1 - Mr. Belmont (Sent direct)
- 1 - Mr. Jones (Sent direct)
- 1 - Mr. Morrell (Sent direct)

67 APR 5 1961  
HPL:egg  
(9)

Toison \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Evans \_\_\_\_\_  
Malone \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Ingram \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

RECEIVED  
READING ROOM  
MAR 10 4 14 PM '61



March 31, 1961

airtel

To: SAC, Kansas City

From: Director, FBI

"LAWRENCE DAILY JOURNAL-WORLD"  
LAWRENCE, KANSAS

Enclosed are two copies of an editorial which appeared in captioned newspaper on 3-16-61. The item was called to the Bureau's attention by Mrs. [redacted] of Wichita, Kansas. Copies of her letter and enclosure, as well as a copy of our reply, are also enclosed for your information. We have had limited cordial correspondence with her.

It is noted that the editorial says that leaders of the John Birch Society include my name among a group of individuals they labeled as "pure-bred Reds." While we have received information that this group has named certain Government officials as communist, this is the first information the Bureau has received alleging that the Society linked my name with subversive elements. You should have a mature, experienced Agent contact Mr. [redacted] of the "Journal-World" and ascertain his source of information concerning me as expressed in the editorial. Be certain Mr. [redacted] understands that we have no interest whatsoever in the Society and that our only concern is to determine the basis for the allegation relating to me. For your information, the Bureau's position in response to inquiries concerning the Society is that we do not make evaluations or draw conclusions as to the character or integrity of any individual, publication or organization. Bureau files reflect very limited contact with this newspaper. On 3-25-57 [redacted] was sent a copy of the FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin upon his request. Suairtel results under above caption to reach the Bureau no later than 4-6-61.

Enclosures (5)

Follow-up made for [redacted]

NOTE: See letter to Mrs. [redacted]

same date.

JWO'B:mid

(6) APR 5 1961

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

66 APR 20 1961

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4-2-80 BY [redacted]

121  
APR 3 1961

b6  
b7C

b6  
b7C

ORIGINAL FILED IN 94-8-678

b6  
b7C

b6  
b7C

Tolson  
Belmont  
Callahan  
Conrad  
DeLoach  
Evans  
Malone  
Rosen  
Tavel  
Trotter  
Wick  
Tele. Room  
Ingram  
Gandy

EX-106

REC-91

NOT RECORDED

APR 5 1961

APR 21 1961

APR 22 1961

APR 23 1961

APR 24 1961

APR 25 1961

APR 26 1961

APR 27 1961

APR 28 1961

APR 29 1961

APR 30 1961

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## Memorandum

TO : Mr. Mohr

DATE: March 28, 1961

FROM : C. D. DeLoach

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

Tolson ☒  
 Parsons ☒  
 Mohr ☒  
 DeLoach ☒  
 Callahan ☒  
 Conrad ☒  
 Evans ☒  
 Malone ☒  
 Rosen ☒  
 Tavel ☒  
 Trotter ☒  
 Tele. Room ☒  
 Ingram ☒  
 Gandy ☒

While talking to [redacted] to the

Chief Counsel, House Committee on Un-American Activities (HCUA), on other matters 3-27-61 she advised in confidence that they have received a letter from the John Birch Society signed by Robert Welch asking that the HCUA conduct an investigation into the background of the John Birch Society so that their patriotic motives could be shown to the public. Mrs. [redacted] said that they were going to write back and say that such an investigation would be merely self-serving and that they would not conduct any such investigation.

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 b7C  
 b7D

Mrs. [redacted] said that she would keep us posted. She also indicated to Kemper that they have literally been swamped with requests for information not only from Congressmen and Senators but from the general public on the attitude of the John Birch Society. She expressed her own personal disapproval of the methods used by Welch and said that his type of activity is doing more harm than good.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

1 - Mr. Jones

ECK:geg  
 (3)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 4-1-96 BY [redacted]

b6  
 b7C

EX-100

REC-60

62-104401-914

APR 4 1961

CRIME RESEARCH

51 APR 7 1961

191

62-104401- 922  
**CHANGED TO**  
63-10138-X

MAR 26 1965

MK-Baw

b6  
b7c

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4-1-86 BY [redacted]

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: March 30, 1961

FROM : D. C. Morrell *gum/oca*

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

b6  
b7C

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
 Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
 DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
 Evans \_\_\_\_\_  
 Malone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ingram \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

*Handwritten signature/initials*

Los Angeles 62, California

By letter dated 3-24-61 correspondent forwarded a copy of a letter which he had sent to the editor of "The Los Angeles Times", Los Angeles, California. In his letter to the editor, he complains that people are bothering him through telephone calls because of the [REDACTED] and that of the John Birch for whom the John Birch Society was named. He was complimentary to the FBI in stating that "FBI men know their business."

b6  
b7C

Bufiles indicate that [REDACTED] was forwarded a letter in November, 1957, by the Director thanking him for sending a Directory of Conchologists reflecting a list of persons interested in the knowledge and study of mollusks. The Directors name appeared in the Directory.

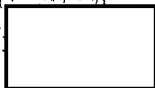
The John Birch Society was founded in 12-58 in Indianapolis, Indiana, by Robert H. Welch, Jr., of Belmont, Massachusetts. It is incorporated under laws of State of Massachusetts; is allegedly anti-communist; has chapters throughout the country; and has not been investigated by the Bureau. Welch and the Society in the past have been extremely critical of former President Eisenhower.

## RECOMMENDATION

1. It is recommended that correspondent's letter and enclosure not be acknowledged in that he states no reply is needed.

b6  
b7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 4-18-80 BY [REDACTED]



REC-33

RWE:cjk

66 APR 10 1961

131

EX-136

62-1044-925  
APR 4 1961

CORRESPONDENCE

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach *pm*

DATE: April 4, 1961

FROM : D. C. Morrell *um*

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

PLYMOUTH MEETING, PENNSYLVANIA

By telegram dated April 2 captioned individual complains concerning the Director's April Law Enforcement Bulletin introduction. He apparently believes that it was directed against the John Birch Society and he advises Mr. Hoover that he is being paid to protect the Constitution. [REDACTED] does not ask any questions nor make any requests. Evidently, he is merely using this means of voicing his opinion.

Bufiles contain nothing which is identifiable with [REDACTED]

In view of the tenor of correspondent's remarks and his opinion, no purpose can be served in entering into an argument with him.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that no acknowledgement be afforded the telegram from [REDACTED]

HHA:js  
(2)

REC-65

62-104401-932

9 APR 6 1961

63 APR 11 1961

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 11-1-80 BY [REDACTED]

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Evans \_\_\_\_\_  
Malone \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Ingram \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

b6  
b7C

b6  
b7C

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:  
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE  
DATE 12-17-2012

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 4/7/61

FROM: *WFO* SAC, WFO (62-D)

SUBJECT: THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY  
MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION  
CONCERNING

Enclosed for the Bureau are 5 copies each of a letterhead memo and a letterhead memo of evaluation, captioned as above.

b6  
b7C  
b7D

*773*  
*WFO*  
*1*  
*X*  
(U) The source is [redacted] a [redacted] of WFO. [redacted] learned the information from [redacted] U.S. Department of Commerce, who is handling the Commerce Department reply to Senator ENGLE. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The letterhead memo is classified "~~CONFIDENTIAL~~" since information contained therein could reasonably result in the identification of a source of continuing value and compromise the future effectiveness thereof.

*2-Bureau (Enc-5) 1cc + 1cc enc. from 1259*  
*2-WFO*  
*1* [redacted] *CONFIDENTIAL* *are remaining ccc enc. destroyed.*  
RFB:cas  
(4)  
*Brooklyn (info) [signature] An*  
*b7D*

*No discrimination indicated*

EX-114

REC-87

*62-104481-944*

APR 7 1961

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

51 APR 13 1961

*4/11/86*  
*Classified*  
*Declassify on: OADR*  
*#320504*

b6  
b7C



In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:  
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE  
DATE 12-17-2012

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.  
April 7, 1961

THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

The John Birch Society was formed in December, 1958, in Indianapolis, Indiana, by Robert H. Welch, Jr., of Belmont, Massachusetts.

(U) On April 1, 1961, a confidential source advised he learned that Senator Clair Engle of California recently received an inquiry from a California chapter of The John Birch Society. Senator Engle was requested to advise that chapter what the United States Government is doing with regard to trade with the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). The chapter plans to read Senator Engle's reply at its next meeting. The source advised that Senator Engle referred the matter to the Bureau of Foreign Commerce, United States Department of Commerce.

(U) According to the source, the Bureau of Foreign Commerce planned to advise Senator Engle that the United States Department of Commerce will not approve shipment of any materials to the Soviet-bloc which have any possible military use.

This document contains neither  
recommendations nor conclusions of  
the FBI. It is the property of  
the FBI and is loaned to your agency;  
it and its contents are not to be  
distributed outside your agency.

b6  
b7c

~~ENCLOSURE~~

ENCLOSURE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

62-104401-944

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONIn Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.Washington 25, D.C.  
April 7, 1961

Title THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

Character

Reference Memorandum dated April 7,  
1961, dated and captioned  
as above.

All sources (except any listed below) used in referenced  
communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

ENCLOSURE

62-10441-944



F B I

Date: 3/31/61

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plain text or code)Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL  
(Priority or Method of Mailing)TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
ATTN: RESEARCH (CORRESPONDENCE AND TOURS)

FROM: SAC, EL PASO (62-1394)

RE: MISS [REDACTED] *John Linsell Smith*  
FORT STOCKTON, TEXAS  
RESEARCH (CORRESPONDENCE AND TOURS)b6  
b7C

Re Bureau airtel to El Paso dated 3/24/61.

LORENE J. ADAMS, who is Mrs. [REDACTED] was  
contacted at Fort Stockton, Texas, March 30, 1961, by  
SA ROY C. DAHL. She resides at [REDACTED] Fort  
Stockton, TEX.Mrs. [REDACTED] inquiry was answered in exact accordance  
with instructions contained in reBuairtel.

CROSBY

RUC

- 3 - Bureau (AMSD)
- 1 - El Paso

RCD:clp  
(4)

REC-4

62-1394-947

APR 8 1961

b6  
b7C

62 APR 13 1961

Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 4/3/61

FROM : SAC, MINNEAPOLIS (100-12314)

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY  
SM - C

In compliance with SAC Letter 60-5, the following information is transmitted.

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b7C

By letter dated March 9, 1961, Mrs. [redacted] of [redacted] Jamestown, North Dakota, requested of the Minneapolis FBI Office an evaluation of the John Birch Society noting that its literature purports it to be an Americanist Society which is opposed to the advance of communism. Mrs. [redacted] was contacted on March 17, 1961, in Jamestown, North Dakota, at which time she advised that on the previous Thursday, March 9, 1961, in the local paper, "The Jamestown Sun", an article appeared concerning Senator YOUNG's remarks regarding the John Birch Society. She said the following Saturday in the same paper were letters to the editor concerning the John Birch Society, one of them by a [redacted] of Bismarck, North Dakota, who Mrs. [redacted] said she had met at a social recently and had received from him a kit of the society which included a blue book reciting the purposes and procedures of the organization and other material. She also advised that [redacted] indicated that there was in Bismarck, North Dakota, a study group of the John Birch Society. She said that this is all she knew concerning the existence of this organization and nothing had come to her attention indicating that there was any individual or group or literature being disseminated or active in the town of Jamestown or the vicinity.

b6  
b7C

Reference is made also to another letter received by the Minneapolis Office of the FBI from one [redacted] of the [redacted] Fargo. This letter is dated March 10, 1961, and he asks for any information concerning the John Birch Society.

b6  
b7C

Mr. [redacted] notes in his letter that he travels extensively in North Dakota and Minnesota talking against communism, trying to instill a desire in the part of these people with whom he talks

2-Bureau (RM)  
1-Minneapolis  
KON:NAN  
(3)

REC-94  
FBI

EX-130

6 APR 10 1961

SUBV CONTROL  
INT. SEC.

51 APR 13 1961

MP 100-12314

to know more about the subject of communism. He further indicates he has been asked for information on this group and observes that from outward appearances indications are that this group is of extreme conservatives with no ulterior motives apparent.

Mr. [ ] who is also an Air Force Reserve Major, was interviewed on March 16, 1961, and he advised that he has read the recent "Time" magazine article concerning the John Birch Society and he had locally become aware of existence of the organization particularly on March 5 and 6, 1961, when a film shown by an area representative at the Graver Hotel presented Mr. WELCH of that organization giving approximately a two hour talk on the subject of the spread of world communism. [ ] said he was present at this meeting along with six or seven other individuals including one [ ] a Fargo, North Dakota attorney who is employed by the Blue Cross organization and is a conservative in his political thinking; [ ] a Casselton, North Dakota farmer who has been endeavoring to induce people to join the organization and one [ ] of North Fargo. [ ] said he did not know the other persons present nor could he recall the name of the area representative for the Birch Society but it was his understanding that this representative had come from Milwaukee. He said that this local showing of the film was arranged for by [ ] and it was his understanding that there had been other showings of the film in western North Dakota and eastern Montana and possibly at Bismarck, North Dakota prior to the showing at the Graver Hotel in Fargo. b6 b7C

An examination of the guest register of the Graver Hotel through the cooperation of [ ] with offices in the Black Building, Fargo, failed to show any guest registered at the Graver from Milwaukee, Wisconsin during the period immediately prior and during the dates of March 5 and 6, 1961. b6 b7C

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
APR 2 1961  
TELETYPE

b6  
b7C

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Parsons	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Evans	
Mr. Malone	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Mr. W.C. Sullivan	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Ingram	
Miss Gandy	

5-8-96

SP-1-B596M #337,439

URGENT 4-2-61 3-44 PM

MJM

TO DIRECTOR, FBI /62-104401/

FROM SAC, LOS ANGELES /100-59001/ 2P

JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY PAREN [JBS] UNPAREN: INFORMATION CONCERNING. PAUL

H. TALBERT, INSURANCE BROKER, BEVERLY HILLS, CALIF., MEMBER OF

NATIONAL COUNCIL, JBS, TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED AGENT, LOS ANGELES

OFFICE, APRIL TWO, SIXTY ONE, DRAWING ATTENTION TO ARTICLE FEATURED

IN LOS ANGELES EXAMINER, APRIL ONE, SIXTY ONE CAPTIONED QUOTE "BIRCH

SOCIETY BRANDED AS ANTI DASH U.S." UNQUOTE, BY FRANK CONNIFF, NATIONAL

EDITOR HEARST NEWSPAPERS, AND BEARING AT EITHER END OF TOP BANNER RED

INK SPREAD, A PHOTO OF ROBERT WELCH AND DIRECTOR HOOVER. MR. TALBERT

TOOK EXCEPTION TO EXPRESSION IN CONNIFF-S ARTICLE - QUOTE "THIS REPORTER

HAPPENS TO KNOW THE FBI HAS TAKEN A DIM VIEW OF THE JBS FOR QUITE SOME

TIME NOW AND HAS ITS AGENTS IN THE PROPER PLACES TO MAINTAIN SURVEILL-

ANCE OVER ITS ACTIVITIES." UNQUOTE. TALBERT ADVISED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD

ROBERT WELCH, JBS FOUNDER, HAD WRITTEN OFFICIALLY TO OTHER WASHINGTON

AUTHORITIES SEEKING FULL OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION OF JBS BY SENATE SUB

COMMITTEE ON INTERNAL SECURITY. TALBERT EXPRESSED SATISFACTION

END PAGE ONE

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APR 2 1961

60. Belmont

APR 6 1961

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AGE TWO

OVER FULL SCALE INVESTIGATION IMMEDIATELY. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN FOR FACT SENATOR EASTLAND OF SENATE COMMITTEE, HAS LONG BEEN TARGET FOR LEFTISTS AND COMMUNISTS IN U.S. TALBERT SAID HE JUDGED THAT CALIFORNIA STATE AUTHORITIES, WHO ONCE SAID INVESTIGATION WOULD BE CONDUCTED OF JBS, HAD NOW RENEGED AND THAT CALIFORNIA STATE INVESTIGATION WAS PROBABLY NOT FORTH COMING. TALBERT SAID HE AND ~~DONALD JACKSON~~, FORMERLY OF HCUA, WERE PREPARED TO TRAVEL FROM LOS ANGELES TO WASHINGTON, D. C. FOR PURPOSE ENLISTING HCUA TO MAKE INVESTIGATION JBS AT THIS TIME. TALBERT WAS REMINDED THAT SENATE AND HOUSE ARE SEPARATE BRANCHES OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FROM THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH AND THAT, OF COURSE, NO COMMENT COULD BE OFFERED REGARDING HIS PLANS OR INTENTIONS. ABOVE IS FOR BUREAU-S INFORMATION. CLIPPING OF INSTANT EXAMINER STORY BEING FORWARDED UNDER SEPARATE COVER.

END AND ACK PLS

6-3/// 6-49 PM OK FBI WA BH

TU DISC

CC-MR. BELMONT

cc - Mr. Belmont

*We must stick  
to no comment to all  
inquiries & not be drawn  
into this brawl.*

*W. K.*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: April 7, 1961

FROM : SAC, CLEVELAND (100-25282)

SUBJECT: COMINFIL OF THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY  
IS - C

On March 2, 1961, Mr. [redacted] Stow, Ohio, orally advised that he had been contacted by one [redacted] Ohio, concerning membership in captioned organization. [redacted] stated that [redacted] is a member of the John Birch Society (JBS) and that since his initial contact with him he, [redacted] has been receiving literature concerning the organization. Among the items thus received was a copy of the JBS "Blue Book".

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[redacted] stated that, based upon his conversation with [redacted] he has learned that the latter is the only JBS member in [redacted] Ohio, but that a chapter has been in existence in Cleveland, Ohio, for sometime. He advised that this chapter meets monthly and that the only concrete results of the Cleveland JBS chapter's activity thus far mentioned by [redacted] was a successful effort to obtain the removal of a United Nations Seal from aircraft operated by the United Airlines. [redacted] was unable to evaluate or otherwise clarify the purpose of this action.

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[redacted] stated that, since the JBS is opposed to Communism, he has considered joining the Society. In view of certain statements contained in the "Blue Book", however, he had some reservations about affiliating with the Society and he requested the Bureau's advice in this regard. He was courteously informed of the confidential nature of FBI files and the consequent necessity of informing him that no advice or information could be furnished to him. Mr. [redacted] stated that he understood the Bureau's position in such matters, but that he would attend at least one meeting of the JBS in Cleveland, Ohio, and would be happy to furnish any pertinent information obtained to this office.

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2-Bureau (RM) 1cc [redacted]  
1-Cleveland 127 REC-85  
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JK/ [redacted]  
[redacted]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 11/18/99 BY [redacted]

He was then informed that the FBI could neither approve or disapprove his proposed action and that any association between himself and the JBS would have to be at his own discretion and in accordance with his own best judgment. He was further informed that the FBI is interested on a continuing basis in any efforts of the Communist Party to infiltrate and influence mass organizations and that, should he obtain any information indicating Communist Party infiltration of the JBS, it would be appreciated if he would make such information available to the FBI. Mr. [redacted] stated that he would gladly make any pertinent information obtained available to this office.

*JOHN EDWARD H. SCOTT*  
On March 30, 1961, Mr. [redacted] telephonically contacted the Cleveland Office to advise that he had learned that the JBS organizers in Cleveland, Ohio, are [redacted]

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[redacted] and [redacted] all of Cleveland, Ohio. Mr. [redacted] could furnish no additional information concerning any of these individuals. It is also noted that indices of the Cleveland Office are negative concerning the above mentioned persons.

In addition to the above information, the Cleveland Office has been the recipient of other telephone inquiries concerning the JBS. These inquiries have been uniformly answered with information concerning the confidential nature of FBI files and the consequent inability of this Office to furnish any information to private persons and/or organizations.

In view of current Bureau instructions concerning the JBS and the fact that to date no information has been obtained from confidential informants, confidential sources or public information sources indicating that local units of the JBS have been infiltrated by the Communist Party, no further investigation in this matter is contemplated by the Cleveland Office and it is being placed in a closed status. In the event information of a pertinent nature is obtained in the future, it will be immediately furnished to the Bureau along with appropriate recommendations relative to any further investigation which appears warranted.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 4/5/61

FROM : SAC, CHARLOTTE (100-9548)

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY  
INFORMATION CONCERNING - INTERNAL SECURITY

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Parsons	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Evans	
Mr. Malone	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Mr. W.C. Sullivan	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Ingram	
Miss Gandy	

On 4/3/61, Mrs. [REDACTED] Charlotte, N. C., telephonically contacted the Charlotte office and stated she is a member of the John Birch Society. She stated that the April 2, 1961, issue of the "Charlotte Observer," on page 8A, carried an article which was critical of this organization. She said that at the end of this article it was stated that J. EDGAR HOOVER, Director of the FBI, had issued a statement which implied criticism of the John Birch Society, and that she would like to obtain a copy of this statement. She was advised this office could make no comment regarding the article she referred to and she stated that she believed she would write to FBI Headquarters in Washington, D. C. and attempt to obtain such statement.

The foregoing is being furnished to the Bureau for information, inasmuch as Mrs. [REDACTED] may contact the Bureau.

There is enclosed copy of an article which appeared in the "Charlotte Observer" in its issue of 4/2/61, which is believed to be the article Mrs. [REDACTED] refers to.

- (2) - Bureau (Enc. 1) (RM)  
2 - Charlotte (100-9548)

RLK:jnr  
(4)

ENCLOSURE

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ALL INFORMATION  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 1-1-96

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